Joint venture fishing policy

*412. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the joint venture fishing policy in view of the various representations received in this regard; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that foreign companies and interes's do not penetrate into our fishing and marine industry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) (a) and (b) No, Sir. The terms and conditions prescribed for joint ventures in deep sea fishing stipulate that vessels under joint ventures should operate only in deep areas beyond the range of operation of mechanised and non-mechanised boa's owned by small fishermen. These also stipulate:

(i) the foreign equity participation to be allowed upto 40 per cent,

(ii) phasing out of foreign experts assigned to such joint venture projects within five years,

(iii) atleast 50 per cent of the crew of the vessel under joint venture company should be Indian citizens and should be increased gradually so as to phase out foreign crew during joint venture period, and

(iv) undertaking should be given by the joint venture company that no oceanographic research, surveys or exploration etc. will be carried by them.

'Agastiya Malai' as Biosphere Reserve

*413. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to declare 'Agastiya Malai as a Bios phere Reserve;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to preserve the green fores's in Agaetiya Malai?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The concept of biosphere reserve is to conserve in situ genetic diversity in representative eco-systems. Agastiya Malai forms part of Malabar rain forest eco-system. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve which has alrady been set up represents this eco-system.

(c) Protection measures have been intensified. Central assistance is available for protection of forests and wild life.

*414. *[Transferred* to *the* 27th *August,* 1987].

Amendment of Code of Criminal Procedure

*415. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have any proposal to make certain amendments in the Code of Criminal Procedure with a view to expediting the disposal of criminal cases by the courts;

(b) if so what are the details there of; and

(c) what other measures Govern ment propose to take to ensure that cases do not remain pending for several years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) and (b) The Government contemplates making further amendments to the